



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes of December 3, 2008

### Open Space Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008**

Amended, Approved Jan. 7, 2009

Meeting was held in the Town Hall Annex, first floor conference room, starting at 7:30 pm; present at the meeting were chair Ann LeRoyer, David White, Elizabeth Karpati, Joey Glushko, Leslie Mayer, Patsy Kraemer, and Lisa Decker; we were joined by guest Eric Segal.

Item 1. Eric Segal is an East Arlington resident; he brought to the attention of the committee concern for actions by abutters of the Minuteman Bikeway, who were performing various landscaping activities on land adjacent to the bikeway edge and their own lots; such activities have included cutting down of trees and removal of the naturalized conditions which help with noise abatement, clearing of overgrowth and plant debris, and planting new material. His documentation was a few years old.

**Action:** We discussed his observations and recommended followup; he and the committee would review Bikeway plans and try to determine location of lot lines and see if there was documentation of where Bikeway margins, MBTA property lines, and private property lot lines existed. Additionally, a letter would be composed and addressed to abutters to alert them to policies regarding activities on land abutting the Bikeway.

Item 2. Minutes of the meeting of Nov. 5, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Item 3. The process to review/update management plans for selected open space areas was discussed. This activity will start in Jan., 2009. A focused discussion related to item 3 of the plans (Management Guidelines) followed.

**Action:** This item of the management plans would be handled uniquely for each property plan; once all the plans are updated, we can approach DPW and Friends groups for clarification of details for maintenance schedule (Section 3.1) content, maintenance standards (Section 3.2), and long term plans (Section 3.3).

**Action:** Change to 2009 schedule for management plan review presentation: Patsy Kraemer will combine her presentations re the Town Hall Gardens and the Old Burying Ground – both will be at the April, 2009 meeting.

Item 4. David White updated us on the RFP for the Cooke's Hollow renovation; the RFP is being finalized by Dave Berry and should be issued before the new year; it is hoped that the process will be completed so that activity can start in the spring 2009.

Cooke's Hollow is part of the conceptual Mill Brook Linear Park "project." Leslie Mayer spoke of Park and Recreation's attention to the Wellington Park element of the project – where their consultant has estimated a basic investment of \$150,000 (or more) to further the concept at this location, while additional work progresses on the tennis courts located at the site. At this time only the tennis court work will proceed; the concept park may be revisited by Park and Recreation in about 2013.

Lisa Decker will also pursue a relationship with the Boston Architectural Center in an effort to have our Mill Brook Linear Park concept project as a thesis project for one of their students; Lisa expressed willingness to be a mentor in such an arrangement.

Item 5. Updates

- Gardening EcoFest – Patsy Kraemer reported on this program, under development for

Saturday, March 28, 2009 presentation; featured speaker will be David Epstein; there will be booths for town groups and vendors emphasizing sustainable concepts.

- Green Dog Program - Leslie Mayer reported extensively on the fall public hearings around the Green Dog Program (dog parks and off-leash programs). A final hearing will occur on December 4. The program developers will propose a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting 2009 for implementation of a trial program.
- David White and Joey Glushko reported on the status of the DCR's Alewife Greenway path project application for NOI before the Conservation Commission, and the public hearing sponsored by the Board of Selectmen. Further consideration and action for the project is delayed until spring 2009 at the request of DCR.
- Leslie Mayer reported on the public hearings associated with the parking renovations at the Thorndike Field/Minuteman Bikeway area. At this point, two different plans are under consideration. Discussion and plans are not finalized as yet.

The meeting adjourned at 940 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joey Glushko